## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 14288 231813Z POSS DUPE ACTION AF-08

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**UNCLAS LAGOS 14288** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS/ BDIS, ECRE, NI

SUBJ: DEFAULTING US BUILDERS STILL ON FESTIVAL JOB

- 1. EMBASSY HAS HEARD UNOFFICIALLY THAT AT LEAST TWO AMERICAN HOUSING CONTRACTORS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF SIZEABLE AND EXTENDED BUSINESS DISPUTES APPARENTLY HAVE RESUMED WORK ON BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL HOUSING DESPITE OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION REPORTED REFTEL THAT CONTRACTS BE TERMINATED.
- 2. THEY ARE ARK URBAN, NOW AT 386 HERBERT MACAULAY STREET, P.O. BOX 6268, LAGOS ULYSSES JIM MONTOGMERY) AND WARNER AND WARNER, STILL AT 104 LWEIS STREET, LAGOS. DR. ED BRICE AND BEEN AMERICAN PRINCIPAL LATTER FIRM BUT HIS CURRENT STATUS UNKNOWN.
- 3. INFORMATION THEY STILL IN BUSINESS CAME FROM THEIR TRADE COLLEAGUES AND HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN CONFIRMED BY OFFICIALS WHO ARE IN MIDST OF FRANTIC LAST-MINUTE PREPARATIONS FOR FESTIVAL OPENING JANUARY 12.
- 4. IF THESE FIRMS ARE WORKING AND BEING PAID, THERE MAY BE CHANCE OF AT LEAST PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR CREDITORS EVENTUALLY. CREDITORS SHOULD BE ADVISED TO RENEW CLAIMS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 14288 231813Z POSS DUPE

WITH FIRMS AND USDOC SHOULD ADVISE EMBASSY CURRENT STATUS OF CLAIMS. THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF ACCOMPLISHING ANYTHING BEFORE FESTIVAL CLOSES FEBRUARY 12 BUT EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT MAKE NEW APPROACHES TO FIRMS ON BEHALF CREDITORS IN EARLY 1977

5. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED LETTER DATED DECEMBER 6 FROM NEAL B. MITCHELL,

MITCHELL HOUSING, LEXINGTON, MASS., (PHONE 617-862-5104) CONTAINING COPIES OF FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS. (MITCHELL HAS HAD EXTENDED DISPUTE WITH

ARK URBAN FOR OVER 18 MONTHS.)

A) MOTION IN US DISTRICT COURT, BOSTON, BY MITCHELL ATTORNEY M. ROBERT DUSHMAN, PHONE 617-726-7800, ASKING APPOINTMENT OF EMBOFF HARVEY CLEW AS SPECIAL PROCESS SERVER. NOTHING TO INDICATE MOTION GRANTED OR APPROVED.

B) SAME COURT'S ORDER (UNDATED) TO ARK URBAN'S MONTGOMERY TO SHOW CAUSE WHY HE SHOULD NOT HELD IN CONTEMPT OF COURT'S PRELIMINARY INJUCTION OF JANUARY 23, 1976 AND STATING THAT A COURT HEARING WILL BE HELD 2:00 P.M. DECEMBER 21 REPEAT 21.

C) LETTERS FROM DUSHMAN AND MITCHELL DIRECTING EMBOFF CLEW SERVE PAPERS ON MONTGOMERY. MITCHELL WRITES THAT SERVICE NECESSARY FOR

PROPER DETERMINATION DAMAGES.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE INFORM MITCHELL AND/OR DUSHAN THAT CLEW ON LEAVE AWAY FROM NIGERIA DECEMBER 25 THROUGH JANUARY 16 AND COURT PAPERS RECEIVED DECEMBER 22. CLEW WILLING ATTEMPT SERVE PAPERS SOMETIME AFTER JANUARY 16 BUT SHOULD WE HOLD PAPERS UNTIL THEN OR DO THEY WISH TRY ANOTHER OFFICER OR ANOTHER COURSE? OUR INTERPRETATION OF FAM GUIDELINES IS THAT EMBOFF CAN SERVE PAPERS IF ORDERED TO BY US DISTRICT COURT.

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PAGE 03 LAGOS 14288 231813Z POSS DUPE

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